

bless you, and thank you for your service.

THANKING STAFF MEMBERS

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as ranking member on the Subcommittee of Environment and Climate Change, I want to thank Chief Counsel Mary Martin, Deputy Chief Counsel Jerry Couri, and senior professional staff member, Peter Spencer, for their tremendous support of me and common-sense, practical legislation that has protected human health and the environment and supports jobs and the economy.

If the public knew how hard that committee staff members work, they would have a better appreciation of our government. Mary, Jerry, Peter, you have my personal thanks.

I would also be remiss if I didn't thank the loyal opposition, Democrat Staff Director Rick Kessler and Democrat Senior Counsel Jackie Cohen. Although many times adversaries, both have become friends.

INVESTING IN JUSTICE REFORM

(Mr. HALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the MORE Act, and I urge our colleagues in the Senate to do the same.

There is a serious need for justice reform in our country, a focus on restorative financial justice. Investment in research, along with descheduling, is something that we must lead on.

COVID innovation zones in our country might be a strategy for bringing bipartisan solutions that create jobs but also dealing with this terrible pandemic.

HONORING DR. MARK EUTSLER

(Mr. BAIRD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Linden, Indiana, resident Dr. Mark Eutsler.

This year marks the 25th year that Dr. Eutsler has co-chaired the nationally televised IPL 500 Festival Parade. Using his experience as the former director of bands at McCutcheon High School, he has helped over 45,000 students from 425 Indiana schools participate in the nationally acclaimed IPL 500 Festival Parade.

Prior to his appointment as co-chair, Dr. Eutsler has served as an enthusiastic supporter of the Indianapolis 500 Festival for decades. Mark has attended the parade consistently since

1980 and has been a volunteer for the event for 29 years.

Dr. Eutsler's consecutive years of service stand out among the more than 3,000 volunteers who will fill roughly 7,000 positions for the month-long May event every year.

Dr. Mark Eutsler is a pillar of the community. I express my deepest thanks and appreciation for his passion and for the service he has devoted to a program that defines Hoosier heritage.

HONORING ZEENATH HUSSAIN

(Mr. LEVIN of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my retiring director of constituent services, Zeenath Hussain. It may not be common to speak on the floor of this House about a staffer, but Zee is truly an extraordinary public servant and human being.

In 2004, Zee answered an ad for a staff assistant position in my dad's, Sandy Levin's, district office. Over the years, she built an incomparable network of relationships with officials in an astounding array of Federal agencies and an unmatched mastery of how to solve virtually any constituent problem.

Even after 16 years of service, in a pandemic causing untold suffering and chaos, Zee listened to each constituent attentively, leveled with people when necessary, and comforted and reassured every family member.

In addition to her tireless work for constituents, Zeenath took care of everyone around her, mentoring generations of congressional staff, dispensing advice about life, and cooking to-die-for Indian meals for the office and anyone who happened by.

Zee, I reluctantly admit you have richly earned the right to retire from your job, but I hasten to add that there is no retiring from friendship or from love.

□ 1415

RECOGNIZING PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF ANDREW SCOTT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Placer County, California, Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Andrew Scott and his 30 years of dignified service.

Since joining the sheriff's office in 1990, Lieutenant Scott has worked in nearly every capacity. I personally saw his outstanding leadership and dedication as a Placer County Deputy Sheriff's Association president.

Over the decade I have known him, I have witnessed his love and passion for the public safety of his community. He is a shining example of what a warrior, a man of God, embodies: a true friend,

defender of the weak, devoted to truth, dedicated to his loved ones, and strong in his faith and love of the Lord.

Andrew has gone above and beyond to provide support for his fellow law enforcement officers through the 10-35 organization. His dedication to never forget officers who have fallen in the line of duty should be an example to all of us to remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of all of our freedoms.

Andrew's service as Placer County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant has made our area a safe place to live, a better one, a better one to raise our kids.

I consider Andrew a true friend, and I wish him the best during his retirement.

WE HAVE A JOB TO DO

(Mr. PAPPAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because our country is in trouble. We are facing a devastating pandemic, an economic crisis, and things will continue to get worse if Congress fails to act.

I can't imagine there is a Member of this body who has not had the same conversations I have had with small business owners, healthcare professionals, local leaders, educators, and workers out of a job.

People are exasperated. They are hurting and they are tired. They feel like Washington isn't coming through for them, and they are right.

We have a job to do, not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Representatives who are here to serve the people in our districts and secure the future of this Nation.

This week, Members of the House and Senate announced a framework for COVID relief legislation. It is not everything everyone wants, no compromise is, but it will fundamentally save lives and keep our economy moving forward.

Heading home for the holidays without addressing this crisis will have disastrous consequences, so let's all commit ourselves to this process of finding a way forward and getting to "yes."

THE CORONAVIRUS IS EXPLODING

(Mr. PANETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, the coronavirus is exploding, our hospitals are bursting, and many parts of our economy are hurting. It is no wonder why Fed Chair Powell and so many other economists are warning about the long-term damage that could be done if we don't pass another stimulus package soon.

We passed the CARES Act earlier this year, and that did keep our economy afloat and our poverty rate flat,

but because of the pandemic, we are experiencing over 1 million cases a week and 2,000 deaths a day.

Because of that, we are finding ourselves in more self-induced economic comas, just like we are seeing in my State of California and my district on the central coast of California.

We can't wait any longer for another economic package. That is why Democrats and Republicans of the Problem Solvers Caucus worked with a bipartisan group of Senators to come up with a targeted and temporary package of close to \$1 trillion to meet our most pressing needs. It is a compromise that can be a way to "yes" for both Houses and both sides to come together.

Mr. Speaker, it is going to be a dark winter, so it is our obligation to our constituents to come to the table to negotiate and pass a pandemic relief package to help us get on the road to recovery this spring.

BRING AUSTIN TICE HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARDER of California). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

I rise today on behalf of my constituents, Marc and Debra Tice, the parents of Austin Tice.

Marc and Debra have asked that I extend their sincerest gratitude to the House of Representatives, all of its leadership and membership, for the passage of H. Res. 17, a resolution that, in effect, supports the President's desire to bring their son home.

Hence, Mr. Speaker, pursuant to their request, I thank Speaker PELOSI, because I had a personal conversation with Speaker PELOSI about this resolution, and I believe that that led to its coming to the floor.

I thank Majority Leader HOYER. He, in effect, orchestrated the bringing of this resolution to the floor.

I thank Congressman HILL for his support of the resolution at the committee level and for his efforts to bring his constituent, Dr. Kamalmaz, home.

I thank the outgoing chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL, for his efforts to bring the resolution out of committee.

I also thank the ranking member, the Texan, Mr. McCAUL, who is a person who has worked with me on many endeavors. He made this bipartisan early on, and I thank him for what he has done to help us get it through the committee.

I thank Senator CORNYN, Senator MURRAY, the 41 cosponsors of H. Res. 17, the 52 Senators and 152 Representatives who signed on to a letter to the President.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from Debra Tice to President Trump.

FRIDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2020.

DEAR PRESIDENT TRUMP, Thank you, from the entire Tice family, for your steadfast

commitment and determination to bring our beloved Austin safely home.

Yesterday there was a news story from the region that Austin Tice had been released and was on a plane headed home. Our phones were going crazy, our email was exploding, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram—every kind of social media was buzzing with an outpouring of high hopes and great joy. Many, many news outlets reached out eagerly hoping to verify this great news.

We know you can make this joyful news a reality. We know the Syrians are ready to work with you.

Please, please bring Austin home for the holidays.

Respectfully,

DEBRA TICE.

Debra—Working so hard on this. Looking for the answer. We want Austin back. I will never stop—

DONALD J. TRUMP.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while they have asked me to extend their gratitude, I personally would like to thank the Tice family for their unwavering commitment to have Austin returned home and allow him to be with his family and his friends.

They also wished that I would thank President Trump on their behalf. I have a letter that is the best evidence of why they would have President Trump be thanked for what he has done.

The letter reads: "Friday, 13 November 2020.

"Dear President Trump,

"Thank you, from the entire Tice family, for your steadfast commitment and determination to bring our beloved Austin safely home.

"Yesterday there was a news story from the region that Austin Tice had been released and was on a plane headed home. Our phones were going crazy, our email was exploding, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram—every kind of social media was buzzing with an outpouring of high hopes and great joy. Many, many news outlets reached out eagerly hoping to verify this great good news.

"We know you can make this joyful news a reality. We know the Syrians are ready to work with you.

"Please, please bring Austin home for the holidays."

It is signed, "Respectfully, Debra Tice," Austin's mother.

The President is known to respond to letters of this kind by simply writing on a copy of the letter a message to be returned to the sender.

I shall read the President's statement:

"Debra—Working so hard on this—Looking for the answer. We want Austin back. I will never stop."

Mr. President, I salute you for your desire and your commitment to bring Austin home. And, Mr. President, I pray that it will be done before Christmas. It would be a wonderful thing, Mr. President, for this family that you now know and you have communicated with, for this family that has suffered for some 8 years without their son.

You would do well and serve them well, Mr. President, if you would honor

the commitment that you have indicated on this letter. It would bring joy unlike any these parents have ever experienced if you would do so.

So, Mr. President, I salute you. I salute you for your desire and commitment to bring Austin home. And I suspect that it has a lot to do with the fact that he is an American citizen, but I also suspect, Mr. President, that it has a lot to do with what you know about Austin.

Austin is an American hero, a veteran captain of the Marine Corps. Austin loved his country. He was willing to fight for it and, if necessary, sacrifice his life for it.

Austin played by the rules. In college, at age 16, he wanted to be a lawyer. But also, Austin was one of those rare, unique persons who not only wants to help, but who is willing to go to great lengths, great extremes to be of service.

He was a freelance journalist, as you know, Mr. President, and as such, he was willing to go into harm's way to places that most of us would never go into to be of service, to help people. So Austin decided that he would take his talents and his desires to Syria.

He went to Syria, and he crossed over the Syrian border in May of 2012. In August of 2012, he was detained at a checkpoint someplace near Damascus, and he has been missing ever since.

There have been what we call in the intelligence agencies, I believe, signs and proof of life. We know that he is alive, and we know that 8 years of this experience is taking a toll on Austin.

Austin deserves our greatest efforts to bring him home, because Austin is an American hero. His parents are in need of his touch, of his presence. They need to hug their son.

So the appeal has been made, and, Mr. President, you have said that you believe that you will do everything that you can. I am paraphrasing. You said you will never stop and that you are looking for the answer.

I believe the answer is within your power, and I believe the Tice family will be eternally grateful, as will most Americans, if you will bring their son home and do so before Christmas.

On behalf of the Tice family, Mr. President, I salute you for your desire and your commitment to bring him home.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair, not to a perceived viewing audience.

□ 1430

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.